

# Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children



Fact Sheet



Iowa Department of Education



# About the Four-Year-Old Program

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A QUALITY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (Preschool Program) is an important part of the state's comprehensive early childhood effort, providing more opportunities for young children to access quality preschool and enter school ready to learn.

The Preschool Program was established May 10, 2007, when Governor Chet Culver signed House File 877.

In the fall of 2010, more than an estimated 21,000 Iowa preschoolers in 326 school districts will benefit from the Preschool Program by providing at least 10 hours per week of developmentally appropriate instruction.

The Preschool Program along with other state and federally funded preschool programs and community partners in Iowa—such as Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, Title I, and Shared Visions—make up Iowa's comprehensive preschool.

## Quality Preschools Help Children, Communities

RESEARCH SHOWS THE BENEFITS ARE LONG TERM AND FAR REACHING.

Young children exposed to high-quality settings exhibit better language and math skills, better cognitive and social skills, and better relationships with classmates than do children in lower-quality settings. Here is the research:

- Evaluations show that children in quality learning environments were less likely to drop out of school, repeat grades, need special education, or get into future trouble with the law than similar children who did not have such exposure. ("In Early-childhood Education and Care: Quality Counts," Education Week – Building Blocks for Success, 2002)
- A study of New Mexico's state-funded prekindergarten show the program produced meaningful impacts on young children's language, literacy, and math development. In addition, there was an estimated \$5 benefit generated for every dollars invested. (Jason T. Hustedt, W. Steven Barnett, Kwanghee Jung, and Linda D. Goetze, November 2009)
- The "most practical and cost efficient way" of making an economic impact may be on providing access for all children. (W. Steven Barnett, director of the National Institute for Early Education Research, at Rutgers University)
- A study of the High Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool showed that at age 27, former Perry Preschool students demonstrated positive differences from the control group in educational attainment, home ownership, incarceration, and employment. ("Investing in Preschool," American School Board Journal, January 2003)
- A similar study of former Chicago Child-Parent Center Program students showed similar results to the Perry study. Both studies also pointed out that a dollar invested in preschool saved the taxpayer \$7 in cost for later services such as jails and drug detoxification centers. ("Leaving Too Many Children Behind," Institute for Educational Leadership, April 2003).

## ENROLLMENT

**21,354 (estimated)** out of a projected 38,916 4-year olds in Iowa in 2011

- 5,126 children in 2007-2008
- 9,676 children in 2008-2009
- 13,666 children in 2009-2010
- 21,354 (estimated) children in 2010-2011

*\*These numbers are for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children only. More children are served through other state and federal programs.*

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**326 districts** out of 361 statewide

- 67 districts\* awarded grants in 2007-2008
- 52 new districts\* in 2008-2009
- 57 new districts\* in 2009-2010
- 150 new districts\* in 2010-2011

*\*Some districts applied as a group or consortium to provide the Preschool Program to children.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The preschool programs are expected to serve four-year-old children with a range of abilities and disabilities representing the social, linguistic, cultural, and economic diversity of families with in the communities.

## FUNDING

TOTAL: \$64 million\* (estimated) in 2010-2011

- \$15 million in 2007-2008
- \$32 million\* in 2008-2009
- \$48 million\* in 2009-2010
- \$64 million\* (estimated) in 2010-2011

*\* both grant allocation and formula funding*

The Iowa General Assembly has allocated funding four years to allow new school districts to enter the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children through a grant application each year.

The grant amount, which is based on the number of four-year-old children enrolled, covers the first year of operation of an approved program.

After successfully operating for one year, the program is then funded through a state funding formula, based on the student enrollment.

Allocation of state funds for the Preschool Program is intended to provide predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding.

## RANKINGS

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Iowa ranks 14th in the nation for four-year-old access to quality preschool programming.

It ranks 29th in state spending on access to preschool.



### What the Four-Year-Old Program Offers Children

- **A licensed teacher.** An early childhood licensed teacher is responsible for designing and implementing effective learning environments using instructional strategies to enhance children's learning.
- **A minimum of 10 hours per week of quality preschool instruction.** Providers may provide other "wrap around" programming through other federal, state, or local programming. There may be a charge for these services if not funded through state or federal sources.
- **Community collaboration.** Programs must provide family involvement opportunities such as home visits, family nights, and conferences. The delivery of quality preschool services by the licensed teacher could be provided in the public school setting, or the teacher could collaborate with community-based early childhood programs, nonpublic, faith-based, non-profit, or for profit centers to implement teaching strategies that enhance children's learning and development.
- **High program standards.** School districts and partners select and implement at least one of three approved program standards: the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, the National Association for the Education of Young Children Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria, or the Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- **High learning standards.** Programs must have rigorous and relevant curriculum and assessments to enhance children's strengths, interests, and knowledge (based on the Iowa Early Learning Standards); and alignment with K-12 standards and academic expectations.
- **Appropriate adult-child ratio of 1 to 10 and a group size of 20.**





## Early Indicators of Success

More kindergarteners with quality preschool experience in Iowa at age four were proficient than the kindergarteners without this experience.

Of the kindergarteners who took the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment in 2009 and attended the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children the previous year, **65 percent were proficient** versus 61 percent proficient who had not attended the Preschool Program.

The effectiveness of the Preschool Program was greater for children in poverty. **Fifty-five percent of the children in poverty who had attended the Preschool Program were proficient** versus 50 percent of the children in poverty that had no preschool program.

School districts submit annual data on children participating in the Preschool Program using the Iowa Student ID system. This will allow for both long-term evaluation of the program as well as an understanding of student success for Preschool Program participants.



## Iowa School Districts That Participate in the Preschool Program

District Name	County	District Name	County	District Name	County
Adair-Casey	Guthrie	Cardinal	Wapello	Dike-New Hartford	Grundy
Adel DeSoto Minburn	Dallas	Carlisle	Warren	Dows	Wright
AGWSR	Hardin	Carroll	Carroll	Dubuque	Dubuque
A-H-S-T	Pottawattamie	Cedar Falls	Black Hawk	Dunkerton	Black Hawk
Akron Westfield	Plymouth	Cedar Rapids	Linn	Durant	Cedar
Albert City-Truesdale	Buena Vista	Center Point-Urbana	Linn	Eagle Grove	Wright
Albia	Monroe	Centerville	Appanoose	East Buchanan	Buchanan
Alden	Hardin	Central City	Linn	East Central	Jackson
Algona	Kossuth	Central Clayton	Clayton	East Marshall	Marshall
Allamakee	Allamakee	Central Clinton	Clinton	East Union	Union
Allison-Bristow	Butler	Central Decatur	Decatur	Eastern Allamakee	Allamakee
Alta	Buena Vista	Central Lyon	Lyon	Eddyville-Blakesburg	Wapello
Ames	Story	Chariton	Lucas	Edgewood-Colesburg	Delaware
Anamosa	Jones	Charles City	Floyd	Eldora-New Providence	Hardin
Andrew	Jackson	Charter Oak-Ute	Crawford	Elk Horn-Kimballton	Shelby
Anita, C and M	Cass	Cherokee	Cherokee	Emmetsburg	Palo Alto
Ankeny	Polk	Clarion-Goldfield	Wright	English Valleys	Iowa
Aplington-Parkersburg	Butler	Clarke	Clarke	Estherville-Lincoln Central	Emmet
Armstrong-Ringsted	Emmet	Clarksville	Butler	Exira	Audubon
Ar-We-Va	Crawford	Clay Central-Everly	Clay	Fairfield	Jefferson
Atlantic	Cass	Clayton Ridge	Clayton	Forest City	Winnebago
Audubon	Audubon	Clear Creek Amana	Johnson	Fort Dodge	Webster
Aurelia	Cherokee	Clear Lake	Cerro	Fredericksburg	Chickasaw
Ballard	Story	Clinton	Gordo	Fremont	Mahaska
Battle Creek-Ida Grove	Ida	Colfax-Mingo	Clinton	Fremont-Mills (Farragut, Sidney)	Fremont
Baxter	Jasper	College	Jasper	Galva-Holstein	Ida
BCLUW	Grundy	Collins-Maxwell	Linn	Garner-Hayfield	Hancock
Bedford	Taylor	Colo-Nesco	Story	George-Little Rock	Lyon
Belle Plaine	Benton	Columbus	Story	Gilbert	Story
Bellevue	Benton	Coon Rapids-Bayard	Louisa	Gilmore City-Bradgate	Humboldt
Belmond-Klemme	Jackson	Corning	Carroll	Glenwood	Mills
Bennett	Wright	Council Bluffs	Adams	Glidden-Ralston	Carroll
Benton	Cedar	Creston (Orient-Mackburg, Prescott)	Pottawattamie	GMG	Tama
Bettendorf	Benton	Dallas Center-Grimes	Union	Graettinger (Terril)	Palo Alto
Bondurant-Farrar	Scott	Danville	Dallas	Greene	Butler
Boone	Polk	Davenport	Des Moines	Grinnell-Newburg	Poweshiek
Boyer Valley	Boone	Davis County	Scott	Griswold	Cass
Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom	Harrison	Decorah	Davis	Guthrie Center	Guthrie
Burlington	Poweshiek	Delwood	Winneschiek	Hamburg	Fremont
Cal	Des Moines	Denison	Clinton	Hampton-Dumont	Franklin
Calamus-Wheatland	Franklin	Denver	Crawford	Harlan	Shelby
Camanche	Clinton	Des Moines	Bremer	Harris-Lake Park	Dickinson
			Polk	Highland	Washington
				Hinton	Plymouth

Continued

# Iowa School Districts That Participate in the Preschool Program *cont.*

District Name	County	District Name	County	District Name	County
H-L-V	Iowa	Newton	Jasper	South Winneshiek	Winneshiek
Howard-Winneshiek	Howard	Nishna Valley	Mills	Southeast Polk	Polk
Hubbard-Radcliffe	Hardin	Nodaway Valley	Adair	Southeast Warren	Warren
Humboldt	Humboldt	Nora Springs-Rock Falls	Floyd	Southeast Webster - Grand	Webster
IKM	Crawford	North Cedar	Cedar	Southern Cal	Calhoun
Independence	Buchanan	North Central	Worth	Spencer	Clay
Indianola	Warren	North Fayette	Fayette	Spirit Lake	Dickinson
Interstate 35	Madison	North Iowa	Winneshiek	Springville	Linn
Iowa City	Johnson	North Kossuth	Kossuth	St Ansgar	Mitchell
Iowa Falls	Hardin	North Linn	Linn	Starmont	Fayette
Iowa Valley	Iowa	North Mahaska	Mahaska	Storm Lake	Buena Vista
Janesville Consolidated	Bremer	North Polk	Polk	Stratford	Hamilton
Jefferson-Scranton (East Greene, Paton-Churdan)	Greene	North Scott	Scott	Sumner	Bremer
Johnston	Polk	North Winneshiek	Winneshiek	Tipton	Cedar
Keokuk	Lee	Northeast	Clinton	Titonka Consolidated	Kossuth
Keota	Keokuk	Northeast Hamilton	Hamilton	Tri-Center	Pottawattamie
Knoxville	Marion	Norwalk	Warren	Tri-County	Keokuk
Lake Mills	Winnebago	Odebolt-Arthur	Sac	Tripoli	Bremer
Lamoni	Decatur	Oelwein	Fayette	Turkey Valley	Winneshiek
Laurens-Marathon	Pocahontas	Ogden	Boone	Twin Cedars	Marion
Lawton-Bronson	Woodbury	Okoboji	Dickinson	Twin Rivers	Humboldt
Le Mars	Plymouth	Olin Consolidated	Jones	Underwood	Pottawattamie
Lenox	Taylor	Osage	Mitchell	United	Boone
Lewis Central	Pottawattamie	Oskaloosa	Mahaska	Urbandale	Polk
Linn-Mar	Linn	Ottumwa	Wapello	Valley	Fayette
Lisbon	Linn	Panorama	Guthrie	Van Buren (Harmony)	Van Buren
Logan-Magnolia	Harrison	PCM	Jasper	Villisca	Montgomery
Lone Tree	Johnson	Pekin	Keokuk	Vinton-Shellsburg	Benton
Louisa-Muscatine	Louisa	Pella	Marion	Waco	Henry
LuVerne	Kossuth	Perry	Dallas	Walnut	Pottawattamie
Lynnville-Sully	Jasper	Pleasant Valley	Scott	Wapello	Louisa
Madrid	Boone	Pleasantville	Marion	Wapsie Valley	Bremer
Malvern	Mills	Pocahontas Area	Pocahontas	Washington	Washington
Manning	Carroll	Pomeroy-Palmer	Calhoun	Waterloo	Black Hawk
Manson Northwest Webster	Calhoun	Postville	Allamakee	Waverly-Shell Rock	Bremer
Maple Valley (Anthon-Oto)	Monona	Prairie Valley	Webster	Wayne	Wayne
Maquoketa	Jackson	Preston	Jackson	Webster City	Hamilton
Maquoketa Valley	Delaware	Red Oak (Stanton)	Montgomery	West Bend-Mallard	Palo Alto
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn	Cherokee	Remsen-Union	Plymouth	West Branch	Cedar
Marion	Linn	River Valley	Woodbury	West Burlington	Des Moines
Marshalltown	Marshall	Riverside 78	Pottawattamie	West Central Valley	Guthrie
Martensdale-St Marys	Warren	Rock Valley	Sioux	West Des Moines	Polk
Mason City	Cerro Gordo	Rockwell City-Lytton	Calhoun	West Hancock	Hancock
Melcher-Dallas	Marion	Rockwell-Swaledale	Cerro Gordo	West Harrison	Harrison
MFL MarMac	Clayton	Roland-Story	Story	West Liberty	Muscatine
Midland	Jones	Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rk	Floyd	West Lyon	Lyon
Mid-Prairie	Washington	Ruthven-Ayrshire	Palo Alto	West Monona	Monona
Missouri Valley	Harrison	Sac (Wall Lake View Auburn)	Sac	West Sioux	Sioux
Moc-Floyd Valley	Sioux	Saydel	Polk	Western Dubuque	Dubuque
Montezuma	Poweshiek	Schaller-Crestland	Sac	Westwood	Woodbury
Monticello	Jones	Sentral	Kossuth	Whiting	Monona
Moravia	Appanoose	Sergeant Bluff-Luton	Woodbury	Williamsburg	Iowa
Mormon Trail	Wayne	Sheffield Chapin		Wilton	Muscatine
Morning Sun	Louisa	Sheldon	Franklin	Winfield-Mt Union	Henry
Moulton-Udell	Appanoose	Sibley-Ocheyedan	O'Brien	Winterset	Madison
Mount Ayr	Ringgold	Sigourney	Osceola	Woden-Crystal Lake	Hancock
Mount Vernon	Linn	Sioux Central	Keokuk	Woodbine	Harrison
Murray	Clarke	Sioux City	Buena Vista	Woodbury Central	Woodbury
Muscatine	Muscatine	Solon	Woodbury	Woodward-Granger	Dallas
Nashua-Plainfield	Chickasaw	South Hamilton	Johnson		
Nevada	Story	South O'Brien	Hamilton		
New Hampton	Chickasaw	South Page	O'Brien		
Newell-Fonda	Buena Vista	South Tama	Page		
			Tama		

## Statewide Voluntary Preschool Districts Integrate with Community Partners

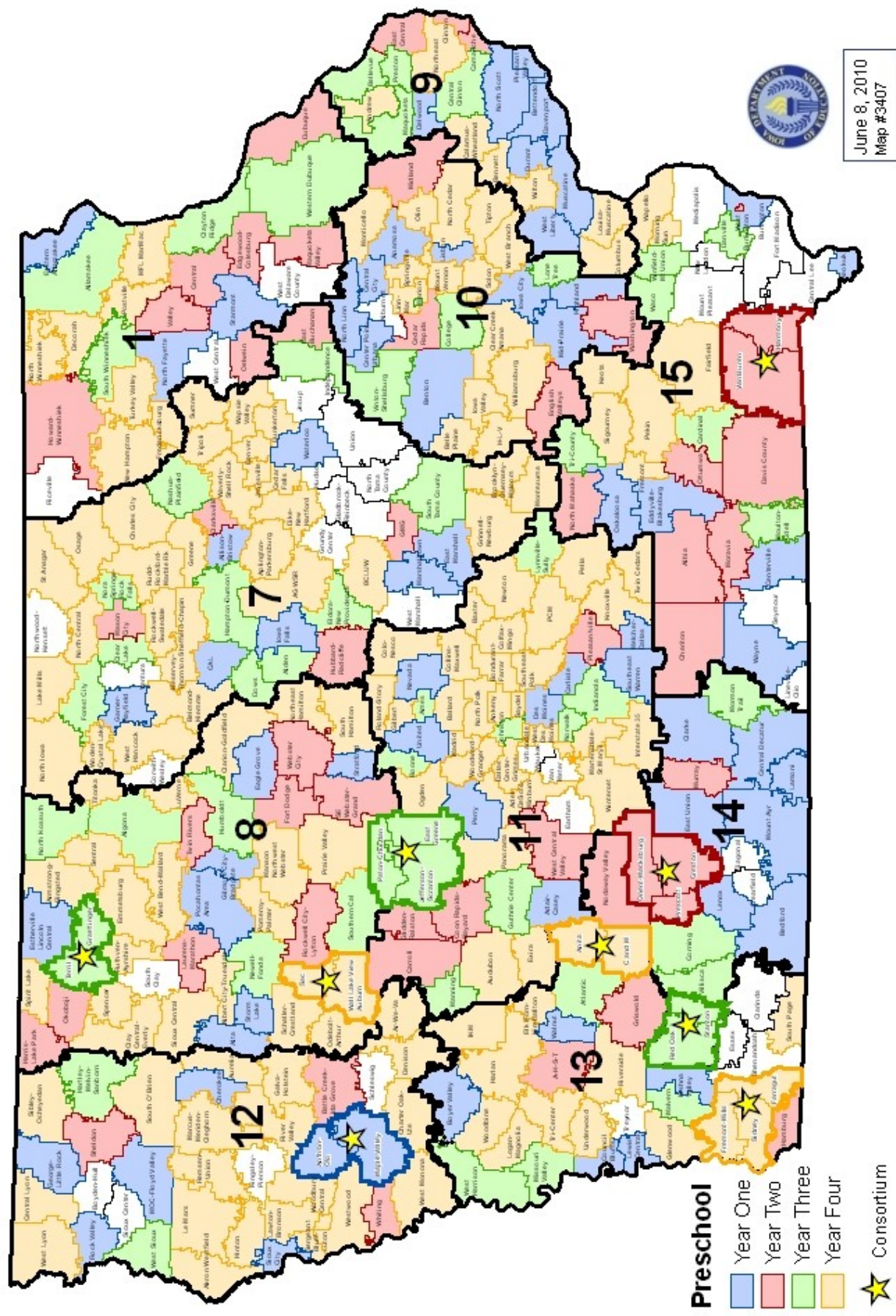
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Number of Districts (includes consortium districts)	67	52	57	150
Licensed Community-Based Child Care or Preschool	Data Not Available	19	19	33
Faith-Based Preschool (Private, Community-Based Preschool Program)	Data Not Available	7	15	15
Non-Public Accredited Schools	Data Not Available	12	9	7
Shared Visions	8	7	4	7
Early Childhood Special Education	52	35	38	108
Head Start	22	20	16	13

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011.

Note. Data Not Available; data was not collected specific to type of community partner for 2007-2008. Some districts integrated with more than one partner.



# Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, Years One Through Four



For an electronic version of this map, please contact  
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